GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:358
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
LAUNCH OF ASTROSAT SATELLITE
Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India proposes to launch its first astronomy satellite called ASTROSAT;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the project;

(c) the time by which the satellite is likely to be launched; and

(d) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a), (b),(c) & (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) and (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 358 REGARDING "LAUNCH OF ASTROSAT SATELLITE" ASKED BY SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL FOR ANSWER ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ASTROSAT mission is a multi-wavelength astronomical observatory to study variability of a large number of galactic and extragalactic objects including neutron stars, black holes, active Galactic Nuclei etc. The scientific experiments on the spacecraft are xenon-filled proportional counters, CZT array with coded mask aperture, imaging telescope, Scanning x-ray Sky Monitor and a twin UV/Vis imaging telescope.
Present Status:
Preliminary Design Reviews completed for Payloads and Bus Systems. The Spacecraft and hardware for satellite are under various stages of realization.

(c) ASTROSAT mission is planned to be launched in 2009.

(d) Astrosat provides an opportunity to make astronomical observations without obstruction caused by Earth atmosphere. These observations help to understand evolution of universe, galaxy, stellar & planetary systems and also study origin of life & intelligence.